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16 October 1979

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2032



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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2032

CONTENTS

PAGE

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Top Liberation Organization Official Castigates American
Efforts
('Abd-al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar Interview; AL-QABAS,
17 Aug 79)

1

EGYPT

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Denounces Sadat
(AL-QABAS, 29 Jul 79)

1975-1979 Tax Data Published
(AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, 15 Sep 79)

8

12

IRAN

Briefs

American Jets	15
American Embassy Guard	15
Kurdish Leader's Disclaimer	16
Warning to Press	16
Woman's Convention Statement	17

ISRAEL

Vienna Summit Seen as New Political Phase
(Editorial; AL-QUDS, 10 Jul 79)

Editorial Looks at Effect of Ankara Incident
(Editorial; AL-QUDS, 14 Jul 79)

Water Shortage at Bayt Olah Intensified, Called Cause of
Hardship
(AL-QUDS, 18 Jul 79)

18

20

22

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Education Expanded at College of Islamic Law, Humanities (AL-QUDS, 15 Jul 79)	24
LEBANON	
Right-Wing Leader Discusses Maronite Reconciliation (AL-SAFIR, 9 Sep 79)	25
Harb Reviews Attempts To Mend Maronite Rift (AL-SAFIR, 9 Sep 79)	29
LIBYA	
Qadhafi Interviewed on Islamic Democracy (Qadhafi Interview; DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 7 Sep 79) ..	31
Economic Problems of Transition to Socialism Described (Fawzi al-Shakshuki Interview; AL-USBU' AL-SIYASI, 10 Aug 79)	34
SAUDI ARABIA	
Transportation Links Being Developed Between East, West (Ahmad Sa'id Muslih: AL-MADINAH, 15 Aug 79)	38
Briefs	
Mineral Exploration	40
Financial Market Proposed	40
SULTANATE OF OMAN	
British Advisers Said To Feel Influence Slipping (AL-HAWADITH, 31 Aug 79)	41
WESTERN SAHARA	
War Seen Inevitable Unless Diplomacy Achieves Miracle (Luisa Luca de Tena; BLANCO Y NEGRO, 22-28 Aug 79)...	44
Morocco Believed To Have Gone Too Far by Occupying Tiris (Agothon; AFRICA, Aug/Sep 79)	47

TOP LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL CASTIGATES AMERICAN EFFORTS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Aug 79 p 15

/Interview with Palestine Liberation Organization Representative 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar by Khalil al-Taqi: "A Fifth War Is Inevitable if the American Plan Opposed to Palestinian Rights Continues"/

/Text/ Mr 'Abd-al Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, stated that a fifth war in the area would be considered an inevitability in the light of continued American policy of pursuing its plan which is opposed to the rights of the Palestinians.

He answered a question on declarations made by certain Palestinian leaders concerning the possession of fighters and trained pilots by stating "The presence of Palestinian pilots and the possession of fighters is nothing new. The Palestinian resistance, mobilizing its resources to face the Zionist enemy, always proceeds from a concern for Palestinian and Arab interests."

Concerning the dialogue with the United States and reiterated news items in regard to that, he said "There is no official dialogue, and no such dialogue will be held except on the basis of recognition of the Liberation Organization and Palestinian rights."

On the results of contacts and meetings between the organization and Jordan, he said "What has been achieved is still limited."

This occurred in the course of the following interview Mr Abu Mayzar gave to AL-QABAS's correspondent in response to the questions posed to him:

The Palestinian-American Dialogue

/Question/ What are the facts of the Palestinian-American dialogue which certain circles have lately started to publicize? Has the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization adopted a clear decision on this subject? What bases can the Liberation Organization accept as a foundation and groundwork for such a dialogue?

/Answer/ At the outset one must state that there is no official Palestinian-American dialogue and that the rumors being spread on such a dialogue are only balloons which have been released by Western--American--Zionist circles with the objective of tranquilizing the Arab world and creating discord in the ranks of the Palestinian people--in particular in the ranks of our people in the occupied homeland who are firmly standing up to the representatives of the American administration and their plans aimed at applying the Camp David agreements and the autonomy conspiracy.

The executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in the words of its official spokesman and more than one of its officials--as its chief has stated on more than one occasion--has asserted that no such dialogue exists. It is true that our brother Yasir 'Arafat sometimes receives some members of the American Senate, but they do not present themselves as representatives or official delegates of the American administration. This has been going on for a number of years but is not to be considered a dialogue with the American government, which is constantly insisting that it will not get in contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization unless it recognizes Security Council Resolution 242, on which, when it was issued, the Palestine Liberation Organization determined a final position, which was one of rejection of this resolution, refusal to deal with it and refusal to consider it a proper basis for the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

Here I must state that the Palestine Liberation Organization does not consider dialogue to be an end in itself. As struggles politically and diplomatically on the international stage, it is carrying out this struggle to obtain recognition of the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization is a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of the firm national rights of the Palestinian people as emphasized by United Nations resolutions in 1974 and thereafter.

The basis which the Palestine Liberation Organization can accept as the foundation for any dialogue with any Western country is recognition of the organization as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and recognition of the firm national rights of the Palestinian people as defined by international law and as set forth by the national congresses, especially the National Unity Platform at the 14th session of the Palestine National Congress.

The Vienna Meeting

/Question/ A great deal of argument has been raised over the meeting held in Vienna. What role does the Palestine Liberation Organization expect of international socialism? Do you imagine that it could lead to the road to a just peace which will guarantee the rights of the Palestinian Arab people?

/Answer/ The 'Arafat-Kreisky-Brandt meeting which took place in Vienna did not come about suddenly or in a vacuum; rather, it was the result of

the meeting which international socialism held in September 1978, resolving at its meeting, which was held in Paris then, to ask the head of international socialism and his deputy to investigate the facts and listen to and ascertain the viewpoint of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Therefore the invitation by Brandt and Kreisky to our brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Executive Council, came about; this meeting, as is well known, was in Vienna, the first Western European capital officially to invite the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In the light of the presentation made to the Executive Committee and the Central Congress, the discussions were positive and useful and had a great effect in elucidating many facts concerning the Palestinian people, the justice of the Palestinian people's cause, and the role of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in political life in the Middle East. The meeting was also a painful blow to media hostile to the Palestinian revolution, especially since two major leaders of the West and international socialism had proclaimed greater sympathy with Palestinian and Arab rights than they previously had.

By the nature of the case, international socialism is a movement, not a great power. There is no doubt that it has a palpable influence on Western public opinion; however, we must not drown ourselves in illusions that international socialism by itself can draw up a strategy for a just solution in the Middle East. The road to a just peace is the road to the withdrawal of marauding Zionist forces from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the restitution by the Palestinian people of all their firm national rights, as affirmed by international law and United Nations resolutions and recognized by world public opinion on the broadest scale.

One can assess the 'Arafat-Brandt-Kreisky meeting by the statement that it was a useful step for the Palestinian and Arab cause on the media and political levels, but as long as the balance of forces in the Middle East region does not change in favor of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement against the Zionist enemy, movement toward a just peace will not be at hand, and this will require further effort and struggle, and the escalation of the struggle, at all levels and in various fields, inside and outside the occupied homeland.

The Palestinian-Jordanian Dialogue

Question Where has the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue led? Do you believe that it has achieved the positive temporary conclusions for which it was established so far?

Answer The Executive Committee has made contacts with the Jordanian party and has sent a number of delegations to set forth a practical translation of the Baghdad summit resolutions, in particular the provision of necessary objective conditions for resisting the Camp David agreements and enabling the interested parties concerned to cope with this conspiracy by playing their combative role on the Arab stages--most importantly the Jordanian stage.

What has been achieved so far we can state is still limited. What is desired is more than has been achieved, and one must act and strive to provide the wherewithal for putting the Baghdad summit resolutions into practice as far as the Jordanian stage goes.

We for our part are working to this end and hope that the Jordanian party will act more positively to carry out what was agreed to at the Baghdad summit.

Once again we stress that the Jordanian scene possesses a particular character as far as the Palestinian and Arab struggles go. As anxious as we are not to exceed the boundaries of what is possible, more is possible than what has been achieved so far.

Palestinian Planes and Pilots

Question Some Palestinian leaders have declared that they have come into the possession of fighters and trained pilots who are able to counter-attack the Zionist enemy and conduct suicide missions inside occupied Palestine. First, what is the extent of the truth of this and then, in the event the Palestinian resistance does have planes--which the Israeli enemy and its allies could consider detrimental to the balance of forces in the region--do you not consider that that could lead to the outbreak of a fifth war?

Answer A fifth war in the Arab area is to be considered inevitable in the light of American policy's continued pursuit of its plan which is antagonistic to Palestinian rights. We cannot avoid war as long as there is contempt for the firm national rights of the Palestinian people. The presence of Palestinian pilots and possession of fighters is not a new thing--the Palestinian resistance, as it mobilizes its resources to confront the Zionist enemy, always proceeds from the premise of solicitude for Palestinian and Arab interests.

Palestinian National Unity

Question In spite of the approval of the Palestinian national unity political and organizational program at the 14th session of the Palestinian National Congress, practical steps to achieve the unity have not yet begun. What is preventing that, considering that Palestinian national unity is to be considered one of the most important weapons the resistance can possess?

Answer The National Unity Program has two branches, the political and the organizational. As regards the political branch of national unity, the Palestine Liberation Organization, with all its detachments, represented and not represented in the Executive Committee, are committed to that and working to achieve it. As regards the organizational branch of national unity, extended meetings took place recently between the

Executive Committee and the leaders of the detachments of the resistance. At these meetings, agreement was reached that the Popular Struggle Front and the Palestine Liberation Front should be represented and a discussion was held with our brothers in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to agree on a formulation in which their presence within the Executive Committee would be called for. A meeting is to be held in the next few days and we hope that the entire organizational platform will be embodied at the various levels and in the various organizations within the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In spite of that, one can say that a great step has been taken on the road to improving organizational relations among the detachments of the revolution, and there is a positive tendency on everyone's part to work together, join ranks and achieve the desired national unity.

Here one must point out that the latest Central Congress meeting consecrated this tendency and this spirit, which all the detachments of the resistance resolved upon.

The Events in Southern Lebanon

/Question/ How can the serious dilemma which southern Lebanon is facing as a consequence of the Zionist enemy's aspirations toward the waters of the al-Litani, the al-Hasbani and the al-Wazzani be coped with in the Palestinian, Arab and international contexts? How can the continuous aggressions against the regions bordering on the occupied territories be stopped? Do you imagine that the decision which the Palestine guerrilla organizations adopted, to empty the towns and villages of the south of the manifestations of arms, will guarantee that the pretext the Zionist leaders have been adhering to to threaten, strike out at and bomb the area will end?

/Answer/ What is going on in southern Lebanon is a clear, blatant Israeli aggression, a Zionist Israeli occupation occurring under the banners of puppet instruments like Sa'd Haddad. These dangers have become well known to everyone in the Arab and international scene. Even the United Nations secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, knows these facts and has referred to them in more than one report to the Security Council.

For the Palestine revolution's part, we are concerned over the unity of Lebanon, in terms of land and people, and are anxious that Lebanese law will carry out its responsibilities in facing this constant Zionist aggression against the south. We as a Palestinian revolution, and as the Palestine Liberation Organization, have announced that we stress our commitment to the Cairo Agreement and its annexes and to the Bayt al-Din resolutions, and we have declared our readiness to stand beside the legitimate authorities in any confrontation it presents or performs against the forces and instruments of the occupation.

Then the Central Congress expressed its extreme appreciation for the perseverance of our heroic Lebanese and Palestinian people in the face of continuous, escalating daily transgressions as well as the perseverance of our heroic people in the occupied territory, their comprehensive unanimity in rejecting and resisting the liquidationist autonomy plan, the heroic popular confrontation against the settlement plans, and the emphasis on joining forces around their sole legitimate leadership, as represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Results of the Visit to Bulgaria

Question What results did your recent visit to Bulgaria produce?

Answer The visit was an opportunity during which viewpoints were presented and exchanged with the head of the Bulgarian Committee to Defend the Peace, Georgi Dimitrov Gusheknii, on a large number of citizens and issues related to the Palestinian struggle and the situation in the Middle East, in particular after the Camp David agreement and the separate peace treaty between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy under the tutelage and encouragement of the United States of America. Our viewpoints and those of our friends in Bulgaria were in correspondence on all issues dealt with by the discussion, especially concerning the gravity of American policy in the Middle East and the fact that the Camp David agreements are to be considered a blatant desecration of international law and of United Nations resolutions bearing on the Palestinian cause and the firm national rights of the Palestinian people as underscored by United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 3236, 3237 and others.

I described to our Bulgarian friends in detail the heroic struggles of the Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization inside and outside occupied Palestinian territories on the Arab and international levels, and I described the goals and results of the visit by our brother Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him to Vienna and his meetings with Counsellors Bruno Kreisky and Willi Brandt.

The two parties, Palestinian and Bulgarian, expressed the agreement of their views that brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Vienna was a positive step and constituted a prominent contribution in deepening Western public opinion's consciousness of the importance of the Palestine Liberation Organization's role and the importance that the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, determine their destiny, and establish their independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, be attained, in order to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

The two parties stressed that a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem will be achieved only by a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the restoration by the Palestinian Arab people of all their fixed national rights, as underlined by international law and recognized on the broadest scale by world public opinion.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER DENOUNCES SADAT

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Jul 79 p 4

[Article: "Maj Gen Salah Shadi, a Muslim Brotherhood Leader: al-Sadat Contravened Islam When He Signed Peace With the Enemy"]

[Excerpts] Maj Gen Salah Shadi, a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood movement and the onetime link between the Brotherhood and the Free Officers' Movement, who was imprisoned for 20 years, says: "Although he helped release Brotherhood leaders who were in jail all through the 'Abd al-Nasir era, President al-Sadat nevertheless contravened Islam when he signed a peace treaty with the Zionist enemy. We believe that the establishment of the Jewish state and recognition of that state after it had grabbed Jerusalem are contrary to religion [Islam] and Islamic tenets."

The Treaty an Apostasy

About the relationship between the Brotherhood and the present regime in Egypt following the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, Major General Shadi says: "I have made my views known in an article entitled "The Arabs, Peace and Israel" which appeared in the magazine AL-DA'WAH following President al-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. I said, after the so-called Egyptian initiative, that our view derives from our conception of Islam's viewpoint, in addition to what the facts in the Arab nation say.

"As to the viewpoint of Islam on this agreement, as we understand this viewpoint to be, we believe that every Muslim who knows the dimensions of his religion should learn two facts:

"One--Peace with Israel means recognition of the legitimacy of injustice, submission to the power of aggression and a violation of that tenet of Islamic law which proscribes the sanctioning of sin or the denial of truth. This peace has sanctioned Israel's right to remain on land it had usurped by force and driven away its inhabitants either by murder or by expulsion, humiliation and homelessness.

"Two--The establishment of a Jewish state which takes over Jerusalem and whose legitimacy is recognized by Muslims is also considered to be a

violation of the concept set forth by the Koranic verse: 'Say ye: We believe in Allah and the revelation given to us and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes and that given to Moses and Jesus and that given to all prophets from their Lord; we make no difference between one and another of them, and we bow to Allah in Islam. So if they believe and ye believe, they are indeed on the right path, but if they turn back, it is they who are in scism; but Allah will suffice thee as against them and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing; our religion is the baptism of Allah, and who can baptize better than Allah? And it is He whom we worship.'

"While God has made it incumbent upon us to honor all prophets and their prophecies, not to differentiate among them and respect the sanctities of their religions, we find ourselves acquiescing in the fact that Jerusalem remains in the hands of the Jews who are desecrating its sanctities. We then overlook the facts about them and sign a peace with them when God warns us by citing their words: 'There is no call on us to keep faith with these ignorant pagans.'

"The fact of the situation in the Arab nation denotes that Israel has won by that peace what it had not been able to win by war. Its technological, political and economic advancement will enable it, in a state of peace, to spread its influence in the entire Arab world when the boycott against it is revoked and when its legitimacy is recognized--this, in addition to the corruption and decay which will bedevil the Arab society as a result of Israel's use of its old weapon, women and money, to undermine the society, because of Zionism's belief in its right to blackmail peoples and force them to their knees--a belief bred by the conviction that the Jews are God's children and all others are the servants of God's children."

Major General Shadi urged against vituperations which involve using abusive language about persons and individuals "lest we stray from the real issues whose dangers we are seeking to underscore, thus falling in the same pit in which others whose papers teem with abuse have fallen."

Major General Shadi went on to say: "We realize now that the excuse of those who accept the fait accompli to save what can be salvaged is a false excuse disputed and belied by a glaring, living reality affirmed by the rise of the Jewish state today--not only its rise, but also its supremacy over the neighboring Arab states in science, politics and economics. While the Jewish state has mounted its jihad [holy war] on a false basis of creed, we say that we should mount our own jihad to overcome that falsehood and regain every inch of the land usurped by Israel so as to return it to the Muslims on a genuine basis of creed. We start from here."

About the allegation made by the Egyptian president and his information machinery that the aim behind the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is to regain our rights gradually, Major General Shadi says: "This is naive thinking

and a saddening delusion which lacks, at least, an awareness of the tactics and strategy of the Jews which they have declared publicly, even before al-Sadat during the ceremony in which the Egyptian flag was raised over Al-'Arish. They asserted that they cling to their promised land from the Nile to the Euphrates so that they may realize their hopes even after a thousand years.

"The Jews were able to smash Arab unity by handing Egypt back its land (Sinai). This in itself was a major gain, and if the Arabs accepted Resolution 242 and signed a peace with Israel too, Israel will have gained again, because the Jews would have won peace and land without losing anything. We the Arabs would have lost our land and religion."

Major General Shadi emphasizes that the Brotherhood disagrees with the Arab rejectionist states on the means and ends. "Our aim is not to throw the Jews in the sea, as one former leader had alleged, but that this area which contains the holy places of Muslims, Christians and Jews be ruled by the law of heaven and that it should be under the canopy of Islam--a religion which believes in all of God's prophets and does not differentiate among them. We are more entitled to true Judaism than Begin and Dayan, more entitled to look after the true religion brought forth by Moses and the prophets of Israel after him. There is no better proof of that than the realities of today which were wrought by the Jews' dark history in contrast to the history of Islam in yesteryears. While today's Jews burnt Jerusalem and desecrated its holy places by the defilement spread by Jewish women, we find that 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab some 2,000 years ago stood at the entrance of the [Holy Sepulcher] church and offered a prayer of thanks after the defeat of the Romans, so that the Muslims would not after that claim the right to the church and violate its sacredness to Christians. Therefore, the religion which believes in the unity of God, the Creator, and the unity of the religions revealed by Him and which respects all prophets is the religion whose law should prevail in the land of God. This is our goal, and it can be summed up in the fact that heaven's law should rule the land of promise which the Jews falsely claim to be their land, whereas it belongs to God. If the Jews were to convert into Islam they would have the same rights and obligations which we have, but should they refuse to do so, the law of heaven should prevail in God's land."

Faith

Major General Shadi counsels the states which reject the Sadat-Begin treaty and those which endorse it to believe in two things:

1--God's saying: "Verily, never will Allah change the condition of a people until they change it themselves."

2--This change will have to spring from the heart of the believer who sees his cause as not only one of land, but primarily one of genuine and

honorable creed--a creed which he should try to make prevail not only in his usurped land but in every land whose people believe in Islam [sic]. This is where the slogans of nationalism, partisanship, Arabism and Nasirism recede and give way to the doctrine of Islam, its goals and its means, for God has said: "This Brotherhood of yours is one and I am your God, worship me."

Major General Shadi goes on to say: "This is the call under which the rejectionist and capitulationist states should unite so that they may be able to confront the Zionist enemy with capabilities and potentialities equal to his, with a comprehensive Islamic unity which springs from the conscience of the individual, the collective conscience of the nation and the system of government. Before such a unity all dissolve and all slogans will dissolve in its fire to be replaced by the only slogan of Islam, whose followers believe that there is no difference between an Arab or a non-Arab except to the extent to which one is more devout and pious than the other. Since today's dictatorships, which in my view are the main cause of Arab setback, have failed to unite under the banner of Islam and creed, they should allow their peoples the freedom to proceed toward that goal. The dictatorships will otherwise fail to shackle and repress their peoples, because Islam's real strength is intrinsic and capable of realizing that hope without any need for the dictatorships to impose the will of Islam. Indeed, the creed of Islam could not be valid if it were imposed by a dictatorship. The Koran has stipulated that 'there is no coercion in religion.' Instead, religion should spring from the conscience of the individual and the collective conscience of the nation."

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EGYPT

1975-1979 TAX DATA PUBLISHED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI 15 Sep 79 p 31

[Text]

[See following page]

TAX RECEIPTS IN THE PERIOD FROM 1977 TO THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 (In Egyptian Pounds)

The Kind of Tax	1975	1976	1977	1978	Period from January to July 1979
Commercial and industrial profits	112,575,665	148,169,364	201,449,055	273,546,186	205,042,606
Personal assets	60,879,411	92,329,261	132,209,052	207,217,129	108,870,860
Tax on salaries and wages	26,901,544	41,763,563	46,113,210	39,180,127	21,277,498
The professions	2,291,927	3,146,698	4,373,772	5,732,286	4,425,967
General revenue	1,896,564	2,814,393	4,427,449	7,014,661	5,753,252
Stamp tax	52,225,464	65,963,979	75,951,933	99,058,491	72,521,265
Tax on inheritance and devolution of estates	2,590,179	3,559,078	3,847,009	4,135,544	2,704,012
Applications for import permits*	2,348	--	3	68	--
Additional entertainment tax for defense	1,081,313	1,532,879	1,766,470	1,578,309	959,315
Justice and police services	2,095,424	3,321,539	4,420,974	3,516,942	6,624,028
Interest in arrears**	69,440	88,234	69,390	45,414	--
Revenues of training programs	5,053	5,497	7,920	8,200	--
Revenues from miscellaneous taxes	408,381	1,635,110	1,238,039	184,830	348,157
Social Security tax				3,844,489	7,460,362
Gambling casinos taxes**				1,202,677	
TOTAL	263,022,713	364,329,595	475,874,276	646,265,363	436,089,121

* Applications for import permits were abolished as of the first of September 1973. The overdue fees that were left over were added to revenues from miscellaneous taxes.

** The gambling casinos tax was merged with miscellaneous revenues in the years 75, 76 and 77 and in the first half of 1979.

*** Interest in arrears and revenues from training programs are to be merged with revenues from miscellaneous taxes.

The Number of Financiers in the Period from 1975 to 1978

Kind of Tax	1975	1976	1977	1978
Commercial and industrial profits	681,216	753,841	870,546	933,365
The professions (non-commercial)	43,478	51,105	61,112	64,524
General revenue	67,323	757,994	86,107	107,046
TOTAL	172,017	880,740	1,017,765	1,104,935

The Source: The Tax Department, the Ministry of Finance

8592

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

AMERICAN JETS--At its last meeting, the Revolutionary Council studied the recommendation of the government of the Temporary Islamic Republic to determine the fate of the F-14 (Tomcat) aircraft and decided that determination of their fate (whether to receive, sell or return them) would be at its own discretion. In another area, the government spokesman, Sadeq Tabataba'i, declared last week that the contract for the ultra-modern F-14 fighters would be abrogated on account of their very high maintenance cost. In this statement Tabataba'i added, "Maintenance of these aircraft is also a headache for America, and it is being said that a number of equipment items in these planes have to be replaced after every flight." The F-14 aircraft were purchased for about \$60 million apiece from America by the former regime. Because of their complicated system and the fact that they can carry Phoenix missiles, the location of their bases also has strategic value for the superpowers. At the session, the government spokesman declared that Iran has 75 to 80 F-14's in its possession. /Text/
/Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 2/ 11887

AMERICAN EMBASSY GUARD--The Guard for the Preservation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, in a declaration, demanded the trial and rapid punishment of the heads of the illegal committee in the American embassy. This organization in a broadcast of its statement, declared "The illegal committee established inside the American embassy under the supervision and guidance of a well-known Tehran tax-collecting personage has been active for months. The Revolutionary Council and the government were not aware of this issue until finally, after its illegal detention of Mohammad Reza Sa'adati, member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the modus operandi of this illegal committee became exposed. The surprise lies in the fact that Sa'adati still is in prison and the Office of the Revolutionary Islamic Public Prosecutor, instead of taking the persons running the illegal committee stationed in the American Embassy to trial, released them and kept Sa'adati in prison in accordance with charges which that same illegal committee had directed against him. There are cases against mismanagement of funds by this committee and we, and the Moslem people of Iran, ask why people running an illegal committee inside the American Embassy to boot, are immune from punishment. Isn't this itself a kind of discrimination and injustice?"

Continuing its statement, the Guard for the Preservation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran praised the efforts and sacrifices of the guards and committees who are sincerely serving the people. /Text/ Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 Aug 79 p 2/ 11887

KURDISH LEADER'S DISCLAIMER--Jalal Talebani, secretary general of the National Federation of Kurdestan in Iraq, following the events in Payeh, has denied that the National Federation of Kurdestan intervened in the last few days' events in the Shahrestan of Payeh. The text of a cable sent to ETTELA'AT newspaper in this regard is as follows: "Qom, dear Ayatollah Hoseynali Montazeri; Tehran, Office of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the great Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmud Taleqani; our fighting brother Sheikh Mohammad Montazeri: The Office of the Prime Minister of Iran is broadcasting false propaganda against the Pesh Merga /units/ of the National Federation of Kurdestan. We are not involved in the events of Payeh. We have always been supporters and friends of the Islamic revolution of Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and, in affirmation of our claim, once again recommend that an investigating and examining committee be sent under the chairmanship of Seyyed Hoseyn Khomeyni. Since the agents of imperialism and world Zionism are plotting against the unity of the revolutionary struggles of Iran, Iraq and Palestine, the Rasputins of Iran who have established influence in the Office of the Prime Minister of Iran are involved in the plot by imperialism and World Zionism against /line missing/. Those who consider the Pesh Merga of the National Federation of Kurdestan to be synonymous with the hirelings of the Taliban and the Jaf tribal chiefs are the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the revolution of Palestine and the peoples of the Middle East. /Text/ Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 3/ 11887

WARNING TO PRESS--The General Islamic Revolutionary Public Prosecutor has given a warning to all press writers, editors and editors in chief. The text of the communique distributed by the Office of the Public Prosecutor is as follows: "Since counterrevolutionary elements and the leftovers of the corrupt regime have not been able to comprehend the indulgence and toleration of the powerful leader of the resurgence, in its broad, comprehensive sense, but, like all opportunists, have drawn false benefits from this tolerance, instead of joining the ranks of the people, and are preparing plots every day in every corner of the country on some excuse, it is therefore hereby conveyed to all writers, editors in chief and editors of the press and all persons who are acting or publishing articles against the Islamic revolution of Iran under various party and other titles that all plots will be met with a severe reaction by the revolutionary courts and that investigations into mutinies, agitation, plotting, abrogation of order, creation of strife and insurrection in the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be among the functions of the revolutionary courts. In conclusion we request all our brothers who believe in the revolution to cooperate with the Office of the Revolutionary Public Prosecutor in

identifying insurgents and agitators. /Signed/ General Office of the Islamic Revolutionary Public Prosecutor of Iran--Ali Qodduasi." /Text/ /Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 2/ 11887

WOMAN'S CONVENTION STATEMENT--The last speaker at the Wednesday night open session of the Council to Examine the Constitution was Mrs Monir Gorji. Mrs Monir Gorji's speech created a sensation among reporters and other representatives. Supported by Koranic verses, she raised the issue of women's and men's rights with an agreeable eloquence and logic. At the outset Mrs Monir Gorji said "I am ashamed to be raising women's rights in an isolated manner at this convention. If women's rights are to be discussed one must also speak about the rights of infants and children." The only female representative at the open session said, "I have no kind of educational degree but not even several university women would change the situation." She recommended that organizations be formed to attain women's rights. At the last open session of the convention, Mrs Gorji held her veil with one hand and a Koran with the other as she spoke. On the basis of one verse which she read out she said "Women ascend to a good life." She pointed out, "In the proposed constitution, no subjects have been raised regarding women." The intellectual rights of women must not be lost and the pen must not be taken away from their hands." In the course of responding to certain people involved in women's rights, Mrs Gorji said, "These people are giving examples of talk against the Koran." Wednesday evening Mrs Gorji severely criticized a female reporter who had proposed to her that women be given freedom to wear clothes for riding horses. Mrs Monir Gorji referred only to people of Yazd, as realistic thinkers and people with a true knowledge of Islam. Mrs Gorji proposed that organizations be formed to achieve women's rights. The women's representative at the Experts Assembly criticized everything in her Wednesday night speech, stating that women are not deficient creatures and, on the basis of a Koranic verse which she read out, said "God has never created a deficient creature." The sole woman representative to the conference considered all the conference representatives to be destitute. She stated in a loud voice, "I am the servant of God and not your servant that you should determine my destiny for me." In reading out a verse she said, "God says that want is not a deficiency in any group." /Text/ /Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Aug 79 p 2/ 11887

CSO: 4906

ISRAEL

VIENNA SUMMIT SEEN AS NEW POLITICAL PHASE

Israel Al-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jul 79 p 1

[Editorial: "The Beginning of an Alternative Stage"]

[Text] Observers are almost unanimous that America was not far away from the proceedings that took place at the Vienna summit between Arafat, Kreisky and Brandt, if it were not indeed America herself that was the unseen motivator of the summit about which Israel has raised so much fuss.

Since Washington's gates have so far been closed--for many reasons--to the Palestine Liberation Organization, Vienna may turn out to be a sort of opening for the PLO, a window overlooking the American White House. This is what infuriates Israel and not just the official reception in Vienna accorded to the head of the Liberation Organization.

We may be in the dark concerning many things that went on at the Vienna summit, but it is clear that this summit was not aimed at destroying Israel. The opposite of this is true. Chancellor Krietsky and the former German Chancellor Willy Brandt are fully known for their work towards peace. When Brandt recognized East Germany, he showed himself a leader in this respect. President Anwar al-Sadat derived his inspiration from Brandt when he decided to undertake the Jerusalem visit.

What causes Israel's agitation on the one hand is the reaffirmation at a high level of that of international socialism and of personalities such as Kreisky and Brandt that the Palestinian issue is at the heart of the [Middle East] problem and that the Liberation Organization is the recognized representative of the Palestinian people. But the cause of Israel's agitation lies also in what appears to be an American attempt to by-pass her obligations towards Israel and in American internal complications which affect American-Israeli relations.

If this interpretation is correct then the logical conclusion that follows is that new foundations should be sought which could lead to a comprehensive solution. It has been shown that agreements reached at Camp David do not form a sound basis for the hoped for solution for reasons that have become

well known to all and particularly to the United States. Camp David agreements, moreover, were not only incapable of providing a sound basis for a solution, but actually gave rise to frictions between the United States and her allies among the Arab countries, frictions the effects of which are not in the interest of Washington.

If America was not actually far away from the Vienna summit, the fuel crisis too is not far from American thinking and this is so because the world functions on the basis of interests and American interests lie with the Arabs. If America does not adjust her policy towards our issues to accord with her interests, the blame lies not with America but rather with the Arab leaders.

We may conclude then that we are anticipating a new political phase as an alternative to Camp David. The Vienna summit is the beginning of this new phase and the beginning of the end of the present phase. The tools in this new phase are many, and the encounter will be hot. The Arabs, and particularly the Liberation Organization, have many weapons, material as well as political. Not to put these to use would amount to abandonment of land and of human rights.

9378

CSO: 4802

EDITORIAL LOOKS AT EFFECT OF ANKARA INCIDENT

Israel AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jul 79 p 1

[Editorial: "The Ankara Incident--Facts and View Points"]

[Text] In the critical and strategic quarrel of the Arabs, or the majority of them, on the one hand with President Anwar al-Sadat on the other, we should not lose sight of several facts; the first one is that we should be very meticulous in making a distinction between the Egyptian people and their Egyptian rulers; we should not confuse the two, and we should beware of crossing the thin line that separates them.

If we desire an Arab character for Egypt, we should not stir up the people. And if we are anxious to resist isolationism within Egypt which considers itself an extension of Pharaonic Egypt or which talks of Egyptian "nationalism," we should not feed it with anything that may strengthen its logic or add to its followers.

More than one party is at work to deepen the breach between the Egyptian people and the Arabs. These parties are known and their objectives are clear. They are inside and outside Egypt, and at their disposal are many tools of advertising, based on the most modern methods of psychological warfare.

The breaking into the Egyptian embassy in Ankara by armed people yesterday is one example of this. Although the PLO and other organizations totally disclaimed any responsibility for the incident, the Egyptian government and others, especially Israel, insist on putting the responsibility on it. These people attempt to draw whatever conclusions that may accord with their objectives, and primarily to unite the Egyptian people against the Palestinians in general, and the Liberation Organization, in particular.

To speak for the Palestinian cause does not necessarily mean that the speakers are members of the Liberation Organization or that they are working for the Palestinian cause. Often the opposite is true where the issue takes on a cloak to cover objectives against the cause and its objectives.

The speed with which the Egyptian government put the responsibility of the incident on the Liberation Organization and the Palestinians does not indicate, in our opinion, that the Egyptian Government is anxious to find those who are really responsible. It is as though someone has been waiting for the right occasion to scheme against the Liberation Organization.

We hope, finally, that the effects of the incident will be contained as much as possible, and that the incident will not have any repercussions.

9378

CSO: 4802

ISRAEL

WATER SHORTAGE AT BAYT OLAH INTENSIFIED, CALLED CAUSE OF HARDSHIP

Israel AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jul 79 p 2

[Article: "Water Shortage Forces Inhabitants of Bayt Olah to Migrate to Areas Where Water is Available."]

[Text] The water shortage in the village of Bayt Olah has worsened and has reached a serious stage. The chairman of the Rural Council, Jamil Falah al-Amlah said that many residents have found themselves forced to migrate to areas where water was available and that there were many others who were planning on leaving and migrating because of unbearable thirst.

A committee composed of personalities and dignitaries of the village headed by the chairman of the Rural Council had made numerous contacts with officials of the military and had explained the seriousness of the situation following the worsening of the water shortage which reached a stage of [widespread] thirst. Officials of the military government were attentive to the problem and were willing to act immediately to assure supply of water for the residents, but without any result. The situation reached a stage whereby representatives of the residents of the village called on the chairman of the Rural Council and its members to search for suitable areas to which the inhabitants could migrate.

Yesterday morning Jamil al-Amlah, chairman of the Rural Council requested a meeting with the military governor of Hebron or with any other official representing him for the purpose of explaining the critical situation. He called on officials to act to put an end to the suffering of the village and to supply the residents, immediately and without further delay, with whatever water was needed. The officials demonstrated interest after having been convinced that the village was short of drinking water and that that was a cause of hardship to the residents. It also became clear that long lines of women and children walked, daily, more than 15 kilometers to bring several cans of drinking water from areas situated near the border.

A New Plan of Water Distribution in Hebron

On the other hand, the water shortage in Hebron has become less severe following the implementation of a new distribution plan which the municipality adopted recently. According to the new plan, water will flow to a particular area for a number of consecutive days which would allow it to be sufficiently satiated and water reaches the highest elevation there.

The secretary general of the municipality stated that work will be completed on the plan of utilizing the well of Bani Na'im which, it is believed, contains large quantities of fresh water and that it is possible that this water could meet the needs of the city for a long time to come.

Informed sources confirmed that the central office in charge of water supply and other [government] departments will cooperate to utilize this well, the discovery of which could put an end to the water shortage which has been causing hardship to the city and to some neighboring areas.

9378

CSO: 4802

ISRAEL

EDUCATION EXPANDED AT COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC LAW, HUMANITIES

Israel AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jul 79 p 4

[Article: "Educational Expansion Anticipated at the College of Islamic Law and Humanities During the Coming Academic Year."]

[Text] Dr R. Hilgi Hanfar, Dean of the College of Islamic Law and Humanities, states that he is expecting education at the college to be expanded at the beginning of the coming academic year. The expansion will be in the form of a new section for the study of the Arabic language and literature. He said that the chances for this to materialize have greatly increased and that this would be another step toward developing the college into a full-fledged university in the future.

Dr Hanfar said that the written examination for all students, male and female numbering 480, ended on the third of this month and that the oral tests would end during this week. He said he was fully satisfied with the results which would be made public after completing the correction of papers and verifying the results. He indicated that the examinations proceeded quite smoothly and responsibly.

This week the buildings of the college were installed with central heating equipment and this equipment is about to be tested.

New students wishing to enroll at the college will be able to submit their applications beginning September 7. Classes begin October 6 of this year.

It should be noted that much effort is now being put into improving the college. Its administrators consider the institution a necessity in the face of a crisis confronting this and other cities on the West Bank and in the [Gaza] Strip. It is now no longer possible for our students to earn their education elsewhere, particularly in Egypt. It has been communicated that the Arab Republic of Egypt has informed their embassy in Amman not to accept applications from students living in the West Bank who desire to pursue their education in an Egyptian institution of higher learning.

9378
CSO: 4802

RIGHT-WING LEADER DISCUSSES MARONITE RECONCILIATION

Beirut AL SAFIR in Arabic 9 Sep 79 p 3

/Article: "Franjieh Praises al Huss's Statement at Havana and Describes Butrus as 'Disciple of the American Ambassador'"/

/Text/ President Suleiman Franjieh has reservations about the call for an Arab summit to discuss the situation in the south, "because two previous conferences were held and decisions were taken in them, but these were not carried out." He said, "What is the good of a new meeting if we have nothing specific to ask? When we do ask for something specific it is assumed that when we get it we will carry it out."

At a press conference he held yesterday, President Franjieh praised the prime minister, Salim al-Huss, who "spoke for Lebanon" at the conference of nonaligned countries. He described the minister of foreign affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, as "a disciple of the high commissioner, the American ambassador to Lebanon, who successfully recites his lesson just as they give it to him."

Franjieh pointed out that an enlarged meeting will be held among the Bishri and Ihdin leaders, in the presence of the Maronite patriarch Antonius Butrus Khuraysh, after the deputy Rene Mu'awwad returns from abroad.

Here is the /text of the/ press conference with President Franjieh:

/Question/ What is the truth behind Patriarch Khuraysh's activities in the north?

/Answer/ What happened is what was written in the newspapers: the patriarch "cherishes" this town (Ihdin), and a sort of indifference between the two Maronite capitals arose. Fortunately, these two capitals belong to the constituency of the patriarch, who was so generous as to come to Ihdin to prepare for the enlarged meeting which will be held among the leaders of the two towns in his presence, God willing, after Rene Mu'awwad's return.

He said, "It is certain that the patriarch, as he did in Ihdin, found receptive ground in Bishri for complete mutual understanding and reconciliation between the two towns. The dispute between the two was to the interest of neither--neither to those who tried to fish in troubled waters nor those who tried to create distorted news through their media about the events occurring between Ihdin and Bishri (that is, the Phalangists)."

/Question/ What conciliatory dialogue is there between Ihdin and Bishri?

/Answer/ None, thank God. We asked, in that regard, in the presence of the patriarch, what differences there were between the two towns. The picture given to the Lebanese via the Phalangist media left the impression that there are bloody disputes and that there is this and that there is that, but this does not exist, thank God.

/Question/ What are your comments on expectations that some explosions will occur in the north?

/Answer/ I believe that the arrangements which we have made are sufficient, and proof of this is the fact that up to today they have not been able to reach their objective--nor do I believe that with the vigilance of conscious citizens they can reach this objective. This is my hope and my confidence in these young people who are vigilant about peace in the whole northern governorate.

/Question/ How do you evaluate the period which followed your meeting with President Rashid Karami and the political leaders in the north? Where has the Northern National Front ended up?

/Answer/ Relationships with President Karami, and all our brothers in Tripoli and every citizen of Tripoli and Zgharta, helped to produce this northern solidarity. We are in favor of it, and the front is faced with circumstances, but there are secondary bilateral meetings which are producing good results.

/Question/ What is your evaluation of the current situation in the south and Arab silence over the Israeli aggression?

/Answer/ The continued Israeli aggression in the south is a plot people are trying to carry out. You ask why there has been no Arab movement--Lebanese officials are supposed to specify their demands of their brother Arabs. However, to say "Arabs, get in movement," without first of all having a plan to present to our Arab brothers, and to tell them "help yourselves to this plan," adopt it or modify it to help Lebanon"--this has not happened yet.

/Question/ What are you recommending to the Lebanese government in this area?

/Answer/ I do not have the data, but if the Lebanese government asked every Arab country--except Egypt, of course--at a summit conference for 10 aircraft from its fleet, and 10 tanks from its military personnel, for a specific time, and if 200 warplanes happened to show up in the Lebanese air force and 200 tanks happened to show up on the Lebanese borders, and the Lebanese flag were placed on these airplanes so that the Arab countries would not bear the responsibility /for them/, I believe that Israel would at that point "count up to 100 and not to seven" before carrying out any raids to bomb peaceful people anywhere. Today we have no planes and no possibility of having airplanes or tanks and Israel roams about as it likes, claiming that it is protecting the Christians and that that is an act of self-defense.

/Question/ Don't you believe that one American plot is being carried out in Lebanon and that they are trying to carry it out today in Syria?

/Answer/ It is certain that the American plot has had Lebanon as its goal, in order that the Palestinians would be compensated for their losses in their country. However, I am not informed as to the details on what is going on in Syria and cannot reply.

/Question/ What is your opinion on the promotion of army officers?

/Answer/ Superficially I have become informed about them but I do not have details. However, when Lt Ghattas is prevented from being promoted, I draw the conclusion that they are not just. Also, when 90 percent of the officers of the north are deprived of promotions, it is natural that we should ask why.

/Question/ Do your reservations on the building of the army and its missions still hold?

/Answer/ I have no reservations. I believe that my confidence in the army is no less than any citizen's. However, I say with a loud voice, my confidence in the army command is totally lacking. I imagine that this command does not have adequate qualifications for rebuilding what has been destroyed.

/Question/ Do you have special requests from the nonaligned summit conference?

/Answer/ I have only a statement of thanks and appreciation to President al-Huss, who has spoken for Lebanon.

/Question/ Don't you believe that Lebanese diplomacy has been deficient in portraying the Lebanese situation?

/Answer/ From now on, until there is a Lebanese diplomacy, the situation will remain as it is. The minister of foreign affairs, in particular, is

a disciple of the high commissioner, the American ambassador to Lebanon. He is reciting his lessons successfully, just as they give them to him. While the American ambassador claims that my criticism of America accounts for only 10 percent of the Lebanese people, and that 90 percent of the Lebanese are content with what America is doing, he is most unfortunate in having the mufti of the republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, who represents all the Lebanese, speak for the Moslems concerning America and its plots. After that the American ambassador tried to go and discover for himself the consequences of Israeli destruction with American arms, and the result was that he was forced to go into the south and leave by small doors--very small doors.

11887

CSO: 4802

HARB REVIEWS ATTEMPTS TO MEND MARONITE RIFT

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Sep 79 p 3

/Article: "Harb, After His Visit to Ihdin: I Reviewed Khuraysh's Attempts To Mend the Maronite Schism with Franjieh"/

/Text/ Yesterday Ihdin Palace witnessed intense political activity in which President Sulayman Franjieh received, in succession, the minister Butrus Harb, in the company of Deputy Emil Ruhana Saqr and Maj Shawqi Harb; Patriarch Khuraysh's emissary Archbishop Nasrallah Sufayr; Deputy Fu'ad Ghusn; Henry Sufayr; Hamid Khuri; Samir Franjieh; Jean 'Ubayd; and finally the president of the World Cultural League Emilio Harun Tu'mah, accompanied by secretary general Rashed Salamah, Ramiz Sa'd, George Yamin, Rahif Zurayq and Malik Shalhub.

Everyone ate lunch at President Franjieh's table in the presence of his son Robert, Ramiz al-Khazin and Qablan Antun.

The first persons to arrive at the palace in Ihdin were minister Harb and deputy Saqr; they sat with President Franjieh, with Samir Franjieh in attendance, at a private meeting which lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes and were subsequently joined by Deputy Ghusn, Henry Sufayr, then Archbishop Sufayr, who left in a few minutes and met with the member of the higher political command at Zgharta, Robert Franjieh, reaching agreement with him to meet next Tuesday at al-Diman in the presence of the higher political command at Zgharta and Bishri leaders in order that a comprehensive, final agreement may be signed between the two parties. Patriarch Khuraysh was deputized to convey a copy of this comprehensive Maronite agreement to other Maronite parties in Lebanon and also to His Holiness the Pope, whom Patriarch Khuraysh will visit on the first of next month to request his renewed mediation on behalf of national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Harb's Statement

Upon his departure from Ihdin Palace, minister Harb told reporters:

"I have been honored to meet with President Sulayman Franjieh. This was a visit I had been intending to make for a long time, but my preoccupations

and the conditions the two ministries I have taken charge of are passing through prevented the meeting from taking place and prevented its assuming a high priority. It was an occasion in which we reviewed the circumstances Lebanon is passing through and means to guarantee a way out of this crisis. The discussion also addressed itself to the efforts Patriarch Khuraysh is making to mend the schism in the northern context. The president put me in the spirit of the contacts which are underway; these contacts are encouraging and we hope that they will continue and lead to results which will serve Lebanon's higher interests and restore solidarity to the Lebanese."

/Question/ You said that the government will take a position to protest Lebanon if the Arab summit is not held. Could we learn of the steps you are intending to carry out?

/Answer/ As a position on principle, there is no doubt that the Lebanese government is no longer able to cope with the situation in Lebanon by itself, because it is not a purely Lebanese situation. As a consequence of the conditions we are passing through and the sufferings all the people of Lebanon are undergoing, as a consequence of the common Arab cause, it is natural that the Lebanese government should be in a situation where God forbid our Arab brothers should neglect to bear their responsibilities together with us so that the Lebanese government could take a bold stand placing everyone before his historic responsibilities.

/Question/ Could you be more explicit?

/Answer/ This position has actually not yet been determined, but each of us has a specific notion, and this is my personal opinion.

Harb Visits Khuraysh in al-Dimane

Patriarch Antonius Butrus Khuraysh received minister Butrus Harb yesterday morning in the company of Deputy Emil Buhana Saqr and the meeting lasted an hour and a half.

It was discovered that Khuraysh gave Harb a verbal message for President Sarkis concerning the efforts being made to effect a Maronite reconciliation.

11887
CSO: 4302

LIBYA

QADHDAFI INTERVIEWED ON ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY

West Berlin DER TAGESSPIEGEL in German 7 Sep 79 p 3

[Interview with the Libyan Head of State Qadhafi in Tripolis, September 1979, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the revolution, by Heinz Gstrein]

[Text] It became dark inside the tent. Outside, the first stars shine in the sky over the Libyan desert. Qadhafi beckons his trusted officers, who are lighting a lamp, to boil tea. In the beginning of March, the President of Libya's Revolutionary Council, the Libyan President and lastly also Secretary General of the General People's Congress of "Direct Islamic Democracy" (Jamahiriyyah), instituted by him in 1977, also relinquished even this position in order to be able to devote himself solely to his ideological work: the reform plans, based on Islam but shaped in modern forms, which Qadhafi formulated in his "Third Universal Theory" and his programmatic outline, "The Green Book" (al-kitab al-achdar).

When Qadhafi began to reverse the march of time back into the Islamic Middle Ages after his seizure of power on 1 September 1969, he evoked worldwide ridicule and mirth. Today, 10 years later, this self-willed son of Berbers from Gaddafa on the Gulf of Sidra has risen to the top of a worldwide wave of Islamic rejuvenation. With an expression of self-confidence he pushes a pillow behind the small of his back, folds his hands behind his neck and glances up with a challenging look. The interview may begin!

[Question] A decade ago when you made Islam the guideline of your revolution in Libya, you were being laughed at by everybody. Since then, most of them are now laughing on the other side of their faces, particularly after what has recently happened in Iran. Does Khomeini's Islamic revolution appear to you as a confirmation of your own concept of an Islamic rejuvenation?

[Answer] I would rather like to defer a final assessment of the Islamic revolution in Tehran. It is a significant aspect of this Iranian popular

uprising that it could draw its strength from a rejuvenated, modern, progressive and revolutionary Islam which does not differentiate between Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Question How is it possible that Islam which believes itself to be the consummate monotheistic revealed religion, could suddenly cease to differentiate between its own faithful believers and Christians and Jews?

Answer Libya is the unique example of a comprehensive revolution which offers itself to all mankind, to liberate man, whom the Koran calls God's representative on earth, from all material and spiritual obstacles which hamper man's volition. Islam is nothing else but the humanistic revolution: an absolute faith in the forces of good and the capacities for good which are inherent in man, which enable man to overcome the consequences of injustice and aggression that have held man back in a state of backwardness and forces which enable man to advance on the road of progress. Thus, today's revolution of the Arab in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah is a part of the worldwide Islamic movement which is fighting today to gain for itself its rightful place in the world after many centuries of darkness.

Question Fighting? Is it then still a Holy War of Islam?

Answer Since the Arab people of Libya remold their lives in the spirit of the noble Islamic legal order, the "sharia," it can only mean an all-Islamic brotherhood and solidarity as well as a return to a responsible use of the "jihad," the Holy War, in the ways of Allah and of Islamic unity.

Question Where do you use "jihad" in a "responsible" way?

Answer We support the Muslim revolution in the Philippines since that revolution raised arms against terror, murder and gangs of racists. It was indeed our support which wrested from the Philippine government a readiness to acknowledge some Muslim rights and demands for autonomy. We equally stand behind the Islamic struggle in the United States.

Question You have often pointed to the leading role of Libya in the Islam world of today. What is being undertaken in this direction?

Answer We are helping primarily African Muslims build mosques and schools. We equip Islamic diaspora communities all over the world with Islamic books and stipends, provide teachers for Islamic and Arabic subjects and send missionaries. I would like to invite the Muslims of the world to send their sons to the Islamic colleges and institutes of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. The courses of Arabic and Islamic studies at Al-Beida already count among their students many Muslim students from Africa, Asia, the Far East and many other parts of the world.

Question You have repeatedly directed calls for a policy of Islamic solidarity to the other Muslim countries. Solidarity in what respect and for what purpose?

Answer To spread Islamic culture and oppose atheism; to remodel everyday life so that it will conform again in actual practice to Islamic values, principles and moral postulates. To achieve Islamic cooperation in technology, science, education and in the field of culture. To establish an Islamic economic organization to develop and consolidate the Islamic national economies making use of an Islamic bank as the principal instrument.

Question How wonderful to be a Muslim today, but back again to your earlier assertion that there will be no differentiation, that is, no discrimination against Christians and Jews?

Answer The doctrines of Islam demand that support be given to all who are weak, even to those who are not Muslims. The appeals of the needy must be heard. The Libyan Jamahiriyyah is guided in all its activities by this doctrine.

Question Is this then a general humane-humanitarian attitude rather than a religious one? Can the same be said of your political ideology? Do you yourself consider your rule an "Islamic divine right" or an "Islamic republic" where all authority emanates from the people?

Answer The fundamental laws in every society are based on tradition and religion. Every other attempt to impose on any society laws outside these two sources is unlawful and illogical. Constitutions are not the law of the society. A constitution is a man-made basic law. A basic, man-made law of this kind should have a source for its justification. The law of society, however, is an enduring human heritage which is not merely the property of the living generation.

Religion comprises the traditions which are expressions of the natural life of the peoples. In this way religion, comprising tradition, is a confirmation of natural law. Non-religious and non-traditional laws are inventions used by one man against another. They are therefore unlawful and not founded on the natural sources of tradition and religion.

As a successor to the era of republics, the age of the masses is approaching rapidly. It heralds joyfully the true freedom of peoples and their emancipation from the fetters of governmental instruments as it will also provide a shield against the approaching anarchy and demagogic. For this purpose the power of the individual, class, tribe, sect or party must be broken in order to have the new Islamic democracy become the direct power of the people.

8453
CSO: 4403

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF TRANSITION TO SOCIALISM DESCRIBED

Tripoli AL-USBU' AL-SIYASI in Arabic 10 Aug 79 p 3

[Interview with Director General of Economy Secretariat Fawzi al-Shakshuki by Sayid al-Jibarti; date and place not given]

[Text] What is the Economy Secretariat's view of the problems of the marketplace and its contemplation of the future, in order to solve practical problems during the stage of transition from an exploitative market to one in which there are no merchants? How do we confront the foreign marketplace once the state, with its public institutions, has become the sole importer? How do we guarantee the best commodities and the lowest prices at the appropriate time? What is the plan for running the state markets, and how do we guarantee its success as we are launching this new experiment in our society, so that it becomes a society without merchants? Through an interview with Fawzi al-Shakshuki, director general of the Economy Secretariat, AL-USBU' AL-SIYASI has tried to answer many of the current questions concerning the marketplace, and this is the conclusion of a series of reports which it has already published.

Import Organizations Number 62

[Question] How is importing carried out now? What is the role of the Economy Secretariat in this stage, now that the state companies for import and trade have been created and all importing has been restricted to them?

[Answer] Now that foreign trade has been organized, and society controls this trade, there are 62 state companies at present which provide society's requirements from foreign markets. The Secretariat's organs supervise and direct these companies and offer them studies, research and expertise so they may perform this role. Although there are no more than 200 workers in the Economy Secretariat, we are making an effort toward this end.

[Question] Doesn't this great number cause a kind of chaos in importing through a lack of relation to the actual requirements of a developing society which is being transformed into socialism and into a producing society?

[Answer] There is a proposal to create a council on imports which would include officials of the various import agencies. The proposal is still under study. We as an economy secretariat have two criteria for everything we import--the best commodities and the lowest prices, with the provision that a commodity produced locally and in sufficient quantity not be imported.

In addition, the state import companies are required to submit by November of each year their estimates of the necessities to be imported and to make up a year's schedule of the various commodities they are responsible for importing. A Secretariat committee examines these requirements and steers the company toward the quality, quantity and market it deems appropriate to cover these requirements.

[Question] The law of supply and demand and the importer's profit are the criteria which practically govern business with the foreign market, not to speak of the extent to which the new society needs these commodities. What are the alternative criteria, now that society controls imports and directs them in the public interest?

[Answer] We use several criteria in determining the volume and type of requirements we have from the foreign marketplace.

First is the volume of imports in the past--the customs register. The responsible agency is the Foreign Trade Department, and a limited amount of growth is taken into account.

Second is the import companies' estimate of their requirements. They have been mainly in the market and can perceive market requirements. Ultimately the organs of the Secretariat will be the final authority in estimating these requirements, so we may prevent any violation of the public interest.

Third is the scientific field studies being conducted to determine our society's real requirements of each separate commodity. Certain commodities have been finished and others are still under study.

Who Knows the Foreign Market?

[Question] The seas of the foreign market are vast, and its ways are difficult. It is full of secrets and angles. How do we obtain the best and least expensive commodities and prevent illegal transactions?

[Answer] We depend on several elements, including former estimates of importers, knowledge of price changes in countries exporting to us, and

information available to the agencies division in which the former trade agencies are registered, plus the rate of commission and the conditions of commission, so that they may be singled out. The Secretariat is placing its expertise and knowledge at the disposal of the new institutions so they may impose sound conditions and standard specifications, in addition to the punishment of economic crimes. We will protect our resources from any deviation whatever in the domain of imports. In the final analysis the masses will be the true guardian of everything.

Five Commercial Attaches in World

[Question] Will the commercial attaches in Libyan embassies abroad be used?

[Answer] That is being mentioned. Therefore we are constantly trying to furnish embassies with commercial attaches, especially in view of the fact that our imports are 1.3 billion dinars annually from the various world markets. However, it is not so simple. It is necessary to provide capable people who are fluent in the language of the country to which they are sent, and they must be backed up by assistants.

[Question] How many commercial attaches are there abroad?

[Answer] At present there are only five. However, we have a plan to cover the main capitals as the appropriate people become available. Undoubtedly the commercial attaches will perform an important role in the future in increasing our capacity to learn about foreign markets.

Future Markets

[Question] One way for society to control the market is to create state markets, and these institutions will be in every municipality. There will be 230 of them. What is the Secretariat's plan for administering these huge institutions and setting up their technical and managerial apparatus?

[Answer] A board of directors for the State Company of Public Markets has been established, and it is now carefully selecting directors for these markets. Also, approximately 140 trainees have been sent to Yugoslavia for instruction in these public markets. At the same time, a group of women is being trained in the Jamahiriya to cover the requirements of these markets of trained personnel. Field studies are being conducted to learn the requirements of these markets and the method of sales and warehousing, especially in view of the fact that the State Company has commercial markets with nearly 72 outlets in Abu Salim.

Price Fixing Has a Master To Protect It

[Question] In the future, in accordance with the statements of the Green Book, the profit margin in commodities will disappear, and sales will be

made through consumer cooperatives and state markets only at cost. However, it has been observed during this period of transition that there is price fixing which is inconsistent between one cooperative and another and between one region and another. Previously there was a meeting between representatives of the state institutions in the Economy Secretariat after a price increase was noticed in locally-produced commodities, following a mass march and complaints about this phenomenon. What is the story on price fixing and who is defending it?

[Answer] There are three types of price fixing. Central price fixing is determined with the knowledge of the State People's Committee for the Economy. There are goods produced locally, and [their prices] are determined by the local price committee which has been established in every municipality. There is a profit margin for imported commodities, and it is determined by central authorities. Therefore there are commodities with a fixed price which is easily known and other commodities which are somewhat difficult to monitor because the cost factors are not known. It is difficult for the supervisory organs to monitor them. Commodities with a fixed profit margin are monitored centrally by 15 employees of the Economy Secretariat, the People's Committee for the Economy in the municipalities plus the municipal police force. It is necessary to have popular control over the producers' price fixing with regard to commodities produced locally in the establishments which were the targets of the march. Moreover, the Secretariat is conducting studies concerning cost, in cooperation with other secretariats, to fix prices in a scientific manner. This is part of the scientific studies being made by the Economy Secretariat within the limits of the means for scientific research provided the research department.

Production Costs and the Merger Policy

[Question] A resolution was issued previously for the merger of certain establishments which were the target of the march. What is the wisdom of these mergers and their effect on cost and prices?

[Answer] The purpose of merging small units was for them to become large units economically and administratively capable of meeting challenges and lowering production costs, raising production capacity, and concentrating resources in a single operation. Naturally this works toward lowering prices and raising efficiency in both administration and production. This has been the goal of the merger policy.

7811
CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

TRANSPORTATION LINKS BEING DEVELOPED BETWEEN EAST, WEST

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 15 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Ahmad Sa'id Muslih: "The Minister of Transport to AL-MADINAH: His Majesty the King and the Crown Prince Interested in the Express Road Between the Eastern and Western Parts of the Kingdom"]

[Text] Riyadh--His excellency Shaykh Husayn Mansuri, the minister of transport, has stated that the next meeting of the Hijaz railway project will decide on the question of selecting the consultative company which will study the project's economic feasibility. His excellency added: When the company completes its study and offers its views and recommendations, it will then be possible to shed more light on the project and make our views known.

His excellency the minister disclosed that the ministry is now studying the question of conducting a feasibility study. We hope, he said, that we will achieve results that will redound to the citizens' interests and benefit, in line with the directives of his majesty the king.

In an interview with AL-MADINAH, his excellency the minister of transport reviewed the project of the asphalt expressway between the eastern and western provinces. He said that the expressway is divided into several sections, as follows:

One--The section from al-Dammam to Riyadh. The section from al-Dammam to Ibqiq has been completed as a four-lane road and is already in use. The rest of the road to Riyadh is being designed by a consultative company in order to serve as an express highway (autostrad).

Two--With regard to the section between Riyadh and Mecca, a 45-kilometer segment of that section is being built, from 'Urayja' to the al-Mazahimiyah intersection. Work has also begun on another segment, from Halban to (Zulam). The other segments are being designed.

Three--The Mecca-Jiddah road. This 64-kilometer expressway is being built. Work on it was begun several months ago, and we hope to complete it with the beginning of the next pilgrimage season, God willing.

Four--The section between Mecca and al-Madinah. The first 50-kilometer part of this section, starting from Mecca, is now being built. The other parts of this section are being designed. Building will begin in accordance with a program which will be specially laid down for this purpose as well as in accordance with the [five-year] plan and the budgetary appropriations.

It should be noted, [the minister added], that the expressway receives great attention from his majesty the exalted king and his royal highness the crown prince, and that the ministry is constantly receiving royal directives urging the completion of the project.

9254

CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

MINERAL EXPLORATION--'UKAZ has learned that the Directorate General of Mineral Resources at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is engaged with three foreign geological teams in a major program of basic geological activities and mineral surveys. A 4-year contract had been signed earlier with a foreign firm to release the mineral resources in the kingdom. A stratigraphic committee has also been set up to prepare a stratigraphic system. The ministry has signed a 4-year contract with the British Steel Corporation, Ltd., to prepare the necessary feasibility studies concerning iron ore deposits in the al-Sawawin valley. Earlier, the search for phosphorite in the northwestern region got under way with the undertaking of a topographical survey of a 40,000-square-kilometer area. The ministry has also set up hydrological units so as to discover adequate water sources in areas where major mineral strikes are likely to occur. The units in question will help the geological survey firms and engineering firms in their efforts to find adequate water sources. [Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 21 Aug 79 p 4] 9254

FINANCIAL MARKET PROPOSED--Several studies are being undertaken in connection with the establishment of a stock exchange in Saudi Arabia to buy and sell the shares and stocks of Saudi and other Arab companies. A committee has been set up from representatives of the Ministry of Trade, the Monetary Foundation and the Ministry of Finance to lay down the foundations and organizational bases of dealings in the Saudi stock exchange. The committee has already begun its studies. [Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 2 Sep 79 p 2] 9254

CSO: 4802

BRITISH ADVISERS SAID TO FEEL INFLUENCE SLIPPING

London AL-HAWAD in Arabic 31 Aug 79 p 9

[Article: "The English Are Annoyed by the Sultanate of Oman Because of the Policy of Diversifying the Sources of Advisers"]

[Text] Is there a serious threat facing the Sultanate of Oman, or is it part of a campaign to defend British interests against American influence? Recently, information has been circulating around that Oman is living in an atmosphere of a coup. American circles were the most interested international circles in that news and its sources. It turned out that the British capital was the source of that information, especially after the British media published and re-published the security arrangements made between the sultanate and the United States government, as if they were secrets never published before, while they had actually been published at the time. Neither Washington nor Muscat considered the information secrets to be kept under a lid. The gist of the information is that Omani Foreign Minister Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im Zawawi visited Washington twice, in February and April. He completed the necessary measures relating to the security arrangements that had been agreed upon. Briefly, those arrangements provide that the Sultanate of Oman will grant air and naval facilities to the United States in the island of Masirah, the strategic military base which is second only to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, in order to enable the United States to increase its military effectiveness and its ability to protect the oil lanes from the growing dangers in the Gulf region--in particular to enable the United States to keep an eye on the strategic Hormuz Strait area. In return for that, the United States has pledged to improve the combat capability of the Omani Army by supplying it with the most up-to-date air, naval and rocket weaponry.

The English media which have volunteered to publicize this kind of information have done so with the aim of frightening the sultanate about the consequences of its new policy--that is the policy of "diversifying the sources of advisers," a phrase patterned after the more common phrase about diversifying the sources of arms. The Sultanate of Oman is the last Arab state in the Gulf region which the British consider to be part of their sphere of influence. The commanders of the land, naval and air

forces are English, and there are about 200 other English officers and military experts serving in various capacities in the sultanate. It is true enough that those advisers and experts serve the sultan, but it is also true that they serve British interests and firms. Most of the weaponry is English-made and most projects are awarded to English firms.

Therefore, the advent of American influence, the arrival of a team of American experts and the sultanate's tendency to diversify the sources of advisers are seen by British circles as a threat to their interests, especially since British-Iraqi relations remain in a state of deterioration, and the Iraqi market has almost become a monopoly of French firms.

The British campaign does not focus only on Qays al-Zawawi (who now holds two portfolios, foreign affairs and finance) but also includes the three musketeers: Tim London, the military adviser whom the British call the Canadian adviser to make a distinction between him and the English advisers, 'Umar al-Zawawi, the brother of Qays and the sultan's foreign affairs adviser, and Yahya 'Umar, the sultan's special adviser who is accused of being the man behind the sultanate's bet on the success of Sadat's policy and its avoidance of the line adopted by the Baghdad [summit] conference in opposing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

The campaign against the sultan's four advisers is based on the premise that they have enriched themselves and amassed enormous profits from investments and business ventures. It is to be noted here that the sultan had stated at one time that he believes in using the service of successful businessmen because a man who succeeds in business can succeed in politics. Indeed, the sultanate's treasury was semi-bankrupt when Qays al-Zawawi took it over from John Townsend. But al-Zawawi was able to overcome the financial deficit and insure firm and steady resources for the treasury.

The question arises here: If the sultan knows everything about his four aides, what then is the aim of the media campaign? Is it designed to create confusion or to suggest that a serious threat is jeopardizing the sultanate because of the diversification of the sources of advisers? This is the very method used by the Soviet Union against the states which used to buy Soviet arms, then sought to diversify the sources of their weapons.

Informed circles say that the campaign is a legitimate act of defending the British interests against the sprawling American influence and that the three aides and the minister of foreign affairs and finance are being subjected to what Mahdi al-Tajir was subjected to when he took the English by surprise by signing an agreement with Continental Oil to search for oil in D'hai in 1969. That agreement was the harbinger of the benefits that deluged Dubai afterwards. What happened at the time is that the British Commissioner asked for the ouster of Mahdi al-Tajir from Dubai. Had it not been for the intervention of Shaykh Ahmad Ibn 'Ali Al Thani, the

ruler of Qatar and an in-law of Shaykh Rashid, the ruler of Dubai, the English would have succeeded in their bid to have Mahdi al-Tajir ousted from the region.

Does the campaign now mounted against Qays al-Zawawi, his brother 'Umar and Tim London drive at the same goal--that is to try to stop the accelerating American influence in the sultanate? This is the issue that is preoccupying the Gulf region nowadays.

9254

CSO: 4802

WAR SEEN INEVITABLE UNLESS DIPLOMACY ACHIEVES MIRACLE

Madrid BLANCO Y NEGRO in Spanish 22-28 Aug 79 pp 31-31

[Article by Luisa Luca de Tena: "Homage to Hassan"]

[Text] Within half an hour, all the journalists in Madrid, and perhaps all of Spain, received an invitation from Hassan II to attend the "La Beia" ceremony in Rabat which was hastily convoked for 14 August. This is a solemn and traditional act of homage, which on this occasion will bring together the "notables" of the former Mauritanian Sahara in fealty to Hassan II as their undisputed monarch. The Moroccan leader was quite concerned that the enti Spanish press be present, and in fact we were.

Everyone knows about the events which preceded this ceremony and made it possible. When Spain withdrew from the Sahara, it was divided between Morocco, to the north, and Mauritania, which occupied the southwest area of the Sahara. Algeria never accepted this division, and it armed and protected the POLISARIO Front, which conducted armed attacks on the weakest point, that is, the area occupied by Mauritania, until Mauritania's present leader, Mahmoud Ould Louly, said "Enough," declaring he would restore this area to independent status.

Hassan II could not go along with this decision, for that would have been renouncing his plans for Greater Morocco, plans which had kept him on his throne. On this occasion the king said very little, but in one night, on 11 August, he staged a peaceful invasion of the province by announcing the "La Beia" show on 14 August.

Visually, the ceremony left nothing to be desired. The delegation from the former Rio de Oro, representing the inhabitants of Dakhla, formerly Villa Cisneros, and the tribes of the territory, included 300 men and 60 women, the men dressed in white robes and the turbans which are different for each chief. These notables submissively indicated their homage one by one to the king of Morocco. The ceremony took place in the presence of the entire governing group of Morocco, the political party leaders and the Arab and African diplomatic corps accredited in Rabat.

While Hassan was concerned that the communications media be in attendance, in order that they spread the report of the ceremony worldwide, the event was intended above all for his own subjects. In fact, for the people of Morocco, the ceremony indicated a statement of the will of the people through their legitimate representatives, the Notables, and in their eyes meant that their Sovereign had won a new victory, gaining for Morocco a province and thereby all the Sahara, a goal proclaimed constantly by Hassan II. But had he won it in fact?

Algeria cannot accept the event as enacted, and besides protesting violently and warning Morocco formally, it is active on the diplomatic front and, according to all indications, is preparing a military response at the same time. On the diplomatic level Morocco complained at the United Nations, and above all worked to win over the United States to an antimoroccan viewpoint, relying on the spectacular development in the past 2 years in commercial cooperation between the two nations.

For the United States the dilemma is critical, and in order to win time without making a decision, it has dispatched to Algeria a delegation headed by Stephen Solar, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which visited also the Mauritanian capital in order to "see up close the situation created in the Sahara" by the recent developments. Morocco is a traditional ally of the United States. Without American approval and a passive U.S. attitude at the time of decolonization, there would have been no "green march," and the fate of the Sahara would have been quite different, because it would have followed the road to independence via a plebiscite for self-determination. On the other hand, Algeria, led by ardently pro-Soviet President Boumediene, was on the other side. But the world changes quickly. Boumediene is dead and without violent change his successors have created a moderate climate, which the United States used to make itself indispensable through a multitude of trade agreements. But these commitments are a two-edged sword, even more so now with the oil crisis. If the United States supports the imperialism of Hassan on this occasion, sending him the arms he is requesting, Algeria will have no trouble finding other allies. Again U.S. policy in the Arab world has become complicated. Again the continent of Africa is in a crisis with no solution in sight short of a full-fledged armed conflict. But...

On 14 August in Rabat, under a cloudless sky, there were only peace, submission, smiles, celebration and cordiality. To repeat, it was Hassan II's big show, perhaps not his last. From within his own kingdom and from his borders, heavy storm clouds approach.

All the observers speak of armed conflict between Morocco and Algeria-Polisario. Unless diplomacy works a miracle, war seems inevitable. It is easy to predict another diplomatic setback for Morocco, like the one suffered at the African nations summit conference, at the nonaligned summit scheduled for Cuba in September, as well as at the session of the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations.

For its part, the Spanish government is keeping silent cautiously. The opposition parties PSOE [Spanish Socialist Workers Party] and PCE [Spanish Communist Party] have begun to ask the government to denounce the Treaty of Madrid, since it has already been denounced by Mauritania and violated by Morocco, because in Morocco's judgment the responsibilities of Spain as former colonizing power have not ended. The POLISARIO Front has made a similar request to the Spanish government.

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WESTERN SAHARA

MOROCCO BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE TOO FAR BY OCCUPYING TIRIS

Dakar AFRICA in French Aug/Sep 79 pp 54-55

Article by Agothon

Text This article, optimistically entitled "The War That Will Not Be Fought," had to have its title changed because of the rush of events.

We could see that the sovereign of Morocco, because he is a sovereign and because everything depends on his moods, on his honor as king, would feel dishonored if he did not take over Tiris-el-Garbia. We thought that he might hesitate before thus extending his logistics lines, leaving them open to flanking attacks by the POLISARIO. We had come to the conclusion that, before attempting the "Tiris" operation, the king would have to destabilize the Mauritanian regime, and set up a regime under his sway.

That has almost been accomplished, since a Committee of Free Mauritanian Officers, ready to take power, has now been set up in Morocco.

But other elements were just as necessary, such as Western support for the Moroccan policy. This didn't seem a certainty to us, but now the Americans have made available to the king their heavy troop carriers in order to disengage from the Shaba troops, arms, and equipment. And they know quite well that this is a strategic redeployment.

Does This Mean War?

Maybe! Just maybe. For Mauritania, even if a new government does come to the support of Morocco, this Mauritania is not just a government. It is also a people, and it will not be forgotten that the people had led the way to peace. So now what? Will Morocco occupy Mauritania, making it an imperial dependency? What will the other members of the Maghreb, of the Maghreb, think of this? What will even the so-called moderate Arabs think, not to mention Algeria and Libya? What will Senegal think?

These are all the reasons why we are saying "maybe"; even though a mobilization is now in progress in Morocco, even though events seem to be moving inevitably toward a violent outcome, a war in the Maghreb is too serious a matter for the interests on both sides not to react, for there not to be a rush of intermediaries proposing peaceful settlements.

Moreover, it takes two to make war. What will Algeria do?

Today it is no longer Boumediene's Algeria, and is the dream of a port on the Atlantic shared by all the population so that the new authorities may feel forced to create a route to the Atlantic? Didn't Boumediene himself claim that he didn't want to extend Algeria across the desert? The POLISARIO had given him the opportunity to put pressure on Morocco to bring it to the conference table. That was about to happen when Boumediene died. So what happens now?

It is the tragedy of this moment in history that not even ideology, but positions, honor, and a perhaps false sense of national interest may lead to a useless clash.

Morocco has decided to ignore the POLISARIO movement which, according to Morocco, does not exist. It sees only Algeria hiding behind false pretexts. But the Saharans do exist. Our problem here is not to determine if they are, as some people say, mostly Mauritians with the rest people who live along the edges of the Sahara, coming both from Algeria and from Morocco itself. The fact remains that they have formed an entity with a shared faith. It may be ridiculous to try to establish a republic with 100,000 men in a space as large as the Western Sahara. The Saharans know this, but how could they have let the opportunity of decolonization slip by without laying claim to their borders, even if it meant negotiating for support, alliances, and special interest that even such an unorganized republic needs, even one that in a sense is so unorganizable.

The Right Of Pursuit

But facts are facts, and the fact of the present moment is the harassment of Morocco by fierce warriors, masters of their terrain who cannot be stopped unless Morocco employs such resources that it could endanger its own development.

In the first version of our study of the situation, we tended to conclude that Morocco would assemble its resources to exercise a crushing right of pursuit, annihilating the rear bases of the POLISARIO, then immediately withdrawing to precipitate the mobilization of peaceful interventions

It was still possible yesterday that Algeria would let itself be convinced by its friends not to react by total warfare in response to a violation of one point of its territory. But with the way things are going now, it is hard for Algeria not to react from a sense of its own honor, especially as

it has the law, as established by the peoples of Africa, on its side: the occupation of Tiris-El-Garbia is a new violation of the international agreements on the self-determination of the Saharan people. This time Morocco has gone too far and perhaps war cannot be avoided now.

Every land has its master; every acre tends to create its own natives. These inhabitants, aided by natural accidents, may make of their chosen land a desert that repels or destroys its masters; that is also part of the history of human settlements.

But now under our very eyes we are seeing the history of a desert written backwards, for this Sahara no longer repels but attracts too many masters, none of which may be the rightful one. But who is the true master of the land? The one who was born there, whose roots lie there? But the contrary is a constant of history, even unwritten history (but bone, flint, traces of fire, and broken pottery fragments all speak their own language). It has remained true throughout history that everywhere where there are men, other men, driven from their homelands by spreading deserts or by their enemies, have covered over, engulfed, or sometimes crushed the first occupants. Those who were forced to intermingle were lucky; and how unfortunate were those who were colonized by alien races; that meant being reduced by the conquerors to the ranks of serfs, slaves, on the very land where they had once reigned supreme.

The People of the Sahara

Today's Morocco, reduced to limited boundaries by France and by Spain, remembers that it once ruled over the sands and even beyond the sands, as far as the curve of the Niger River and to the Senegal River. So, for that reason, should everyone give up territory to a Moroccan empire? The OAU voted to stabilize the borders to those inherited from colonial days; but if the OAU is powerless to block a too enterprising king, why not also give him Mauritania, why not let him take back from sub-Saharan Africa everything that the renegade Djouder had conquered?

But the POLISARIO movement is here, claiming to be the Saharan people, the people of the Sahara. Why not? We repeat: there is no land without a master.

We are sensitive to the morality or the immorality of such attitudes than to the insult offered by Morocco to international institutions, and the world should not take pride in this. It is quite logical that after nothing was done about the "green march," today there is a pure and simple seizure of the Rio de Oro territory.

So, will there be war or not? Everything depends on Algeria. Algeria has officially been keeping silent, and it is Mauritania which has spoken out, saying that it would not accept this "fait accompli," and calling on the United Nations and the OAU to accept their responsibility. And the crown of Spain also bears some responsibility in this situation.

An impasse has been created. North America, as usual, is involved in this, as it is in all international immoral actions. Europe is keeping still. And the OAU, also as usual, just keeps on reversing its positions. Will some Algerian Caesar arise to cut this Gordian knot?

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